



**BLACKSTAFF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Established 1978

2nd December 2014

**Mr. Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure,
Belfast City Council,
Adelaide Exchange,
24-26 Adelaide Street,
Belfast BT2 8GD**

Dear Andrew

PROPOSAL TO NAME NEW PARK: 'THE RUBY MURRAY PARK'.

Blackstaff Community Development Association received a copy of a letter from Bernie Burgess, husband of the late Ruby Murray suggesting that the new park in the Village Redevelopment Area be named after Ruby. Blackstaff CDA would support fully this proposal. The image of Ruby Murray already appears in art form throughout the area in at least three places and on information boards. Another image is due to appear on the front of the road at Monarch and will be seen by motorists coming from and to the Broadway roundabout. These images have been asked for by local residents and clearly demonstrate the high esteem in which Ruby is still held by the local people.

Ruby's fame goes beyond the local people and she is seen as belonging to Belfast. Within the City centre there is a Blue Plaque to her at the Ulster Hall. Ruby's image can also be seen alongside famous musicians, actors, comedians, sports people on a well executed mural in the passageway facing the Duke of York Bar, Commercial Court.

The local Windsor Women's Centre in Broadway have already run a very successful tribute concert to Ruby and are seriously considering a Musical based on her life. The Women's Centre also had a competition and voted for a local street to be named after Ruby but locals did not wish any of their existing street names to disappear so therefore this proposal could not progress any further. Moltke Street in which Ruby was born will border the new park and is now seen as an ideal solution to name the park after Ruby instead of renaming a street.

We believe naming the new park after Ruby would get great local support, which would benefit the area and Belfast generally. Many tourists know about Ruby but don't know where she was born and if the park is named after Ruby, they can be directed to Moltke Street and the park which is near to where her home was. A Ruby Murray sign and perhaps also an art work would be a tourist attraction. We hope this would be supported by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and promoted in the same way as other famous people are promoted in other parts of Belfast.

Finally, there is also a general discussion going on about the possibility of planning a Ruby Murray Festival Week and there is no doubt that Ruby Murray is the greatest singing talent to come from the Donegall Road area, a fact that the Belfast people should be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

William Dickson

Chair